letters of Intent/Industrial Licence for the manufacture of various types of Defence equipment.

(c) Government has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Vijay L. Kelkar. ex-adviser to Finance Minister, to examine and make recommendations to ensure effective participation of private sector in Defence Production.

Expert Committee to Probe Frequent Crashes of IAF Fighters

1330. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee has been constituted to investigate the high number of IAF aircraft crashes;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of reference thereof;

(c) when the said expert committee is likely to submit its report ;

(d) whether earlier also such committees were constituted;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether recommendations of these committees were implemented; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) to (g) A Committee On Fighter Aircraft Accidents (COFAA) was set up in February 1997 by the Government under the Chairmanship of Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri to identify the causes for the aircraft accidents

and prepare a comprehensive action plan to reduce the same to a minimum. The Committee also considered the recommendations of the earlier Committees *i.e.* Kohli Committee and La Fontaine Committee on flight safety. The Committee submitted its report to the Government in August, 1997.

Out of total 84 recommendations made by the Committee, 53 have been implemented, 21 are under various stages of implementation, while 10 are treated as closed as it is not possible to implement them.

Capability of Arjuna

1331. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shooting range and capability of "ARJUNA" has somewhat come down while its weight has increased;

(b) if so, how far its capability has been reduced and weight increased, compared to the capability envisaged originally; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The shooting range, firing accuracy and other capabilities of main Battle Tank, Aujun are meeting the General Staff Qualitative Requirements (GSQR) of Army.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

Review of Treatment Meted out to Tehelka Journalists

1332. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the manner in which the Tehelka Journalist have been treated in the past;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?